UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/345
1 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 MAY 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

This morning, Pale Serb troops raided a weapons collection site at Ilidža and seized heavy weapons contained therein. Under the committed United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mandates, such a violation of the Sarajevo exclusion zone warrants a resolute response. Regrettably, there was none.

Subsequently, sniping and shelling against Sarajevo escalated sharply. Two women were killed by sniper fire while government officials at the Presidency Building were able to count from there alone at least 30 incoming shells. In response to this, NATO overflew the city twice. However, as the shelling did not abate for the remainder of the day, we can only assume that the Pale Serbs did not take this "response" seriously. Given the current situation in Sarajevo, we, the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, must join others in the international community in speculating how seriously the highest authorities of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) take their mandate.

Government officials did meet with General Smith to inquire as to why there was no adequate response to today's incidents and were given the standard response, namely, that UNPROFOR is not in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to join sides in a war and that one must consider the consequences to the UNPROFOR troops on the ground. Given past and recent Pale actions taken against UNPROFOR peace-keepers, including the detaining of 26 United Nations police in Okučani this morning, we ourselves are wondering what level of consideration, on the ground, has been given to the safety of UNPROFOR peace-keepers. We must also wonder who is concerned about the safety of Bosnia's civilians, the consequences to the "exclusion zone" and the credibility of the Security Council.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIĆ
Chargé d'affaires
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative

95-13096 (E) 010595 020595